BEFORE THE STATE OF INDIANA
CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION



PUBLIC MEETING OF DECEMBER 17, 2010



## PROCEEDINGS

in the above-captioned matter, before the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, David C. Carter,
Chairman, taken before me, Lindy L. Meyer, Jr., a
Notary Public in and for the State of Indiana,
County of Shelby, at the Indiana Government
Center South, Conference Center, Room A, 402 West
Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, on
Friday, December 17, 2010 at 11:18 o'clock a.m.

William F. Daniels, RPR/CP CM d/b/a
ACCURATE REPORTING OF INDIANA
12922 Brighton Avenue
Carmel, Indiana 46032
(317) 848-0088

1	APPEARANCES:
2	COMMISSION MEMBERS:
3	David C. Carter, Chairman
4	Alpha Blackburn Steven A. Ramos
5	Barry Baynard Charles D. Gidney
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7	INDIANA CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION By Jamal Smith, Director/Secretary
8	& Joshua Brewster, Dep. Director Indiana Government Center North
9	100 North Senate Avenue, Room N103 Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
10	On behalf of the Commission.
11	OTHER COMMISSION STAFF PRESENT:
12	Robert D. Lange
13	Joan T. Essex Tawanda Sharp
L4	Ava Taylor Brad Meadows
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1 11:18 o'clock a.m. December 17, 2010 2 3 CHAIRMAN CARTER: I'll call the 4 public meeting of the Indiana Civil Rights 5 Commission to order, the monthly meeting for 6 December, that is, and we have a quorum, and so, 7 you have before you the minutes, and may I have a 8 motion to accept them, please? 9 COMM. RAMOS: So moved. 10 CHAIRMAN CARTER: And a second? COMM. GIDNEY: Second. 11 CHAIRMAN CARTER: All in favor? 12 13 COMM. BAYNARD: Aye. 14 COMM. RAMOS: Aye. 15 COMM. GIDNEY: Aye. 16 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Aye. 17 Ms. Essex, the Financial Report, which I 18 believe you also have before you. 19 MS. ESSEX: I have nothing to report. 20 Everything seems to be going along just fine. We 21 are closing in on halfway through the year, and 22 we are on target to meet our reversion, and I'll

entertain any questions that anyone might have.

(No response.)

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CHAIRMAN CARTER: Hearing none, entertaining or otherwise, we can move on to Old Business. Collier versus Eytcheson. I don't know what that is.

MR. BREWSTER: Well, if you will recall, I'm not sure what Commissioner had that case, but they recommended reversing the finding of no cause. That was back in August, I think, sometime.

Per our regulation, when that happens, the Respondent's given an opportunity to file objections to the reversal, which they did in this case, and then the file is given back to the Commissioner, to the full Commission, to review, including those objections, and then the Commission needs to vote on whether or not to reverse the finding of no cause, and that vote would be made without the participation of the original Commissioner who reviewed -- who recommended the reversal.

CHAIRMAN CARTER: Okay.

MR. BREWSTER: Again, I don't recall

1 who that Commissioner was. 2 COMM. BAYNARD: Actually it was me. 3 MR. BREWSTER: Okay. COMM. BAYNARD: I thought we dealt 4 5 with this at the last meeting, but apparently we 6 didn't go through the right procedure. 7 MR. BREWSTER: Yeah. I'm --COMM. BAYNARD: I was having a hard 8 time figuring out what -- who was this case? 9 10 MR. BREWSTER: This was the one where 11 the Complainant had attempted to rent a home, and 12 she was -- well, ultimately denied the ability to rent the home, and it was rented to a Caucasian 13 tenant instead. That was -- that was basically 14 the facts of the case. But the Respondent in 15 that case claimed that -- do we have the file? 16 (Discussion off the record.) 17 18 MR. BREWSTER: Okay. Well, I don't know if you want to get the file and review it. 19 I mean I don't know how that works, but --20 21 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Yeah. MR. BREWSTER: -- the whole 22 23 Commission is supposed to vote on whether to

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     reverse that notice.
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                 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Okay. I don't
 3
     recall seeing the file, either last month or
     this.
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                 MR. BREWSTER: Yeah, I think the only
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    one that's seen it is Mr. Baynard --
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                 CHAIRMAN CARTER: So, if we could
    have it --
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                 MR. BREWSTER: -- and he recommended
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    reversing and making it a probable cause based
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    upon the evidence.
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                 CHAIRMAN CARTER: If we could have it
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    in January and then --
                 MR. BREWSTER: Okay.
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                 CHAIRMAN CARTER: -- review it and
    talk about it next month --
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                 MR. BREWSTER: Okay.
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                 CHAIRMAN CARTER: -- perhaps with a
    note reminding everyone or telling everyone why
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    we are getting the case.
                 MR. BREWSTER: Okay. We will do
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    that.
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                 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Okay.
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1 COMM. RAMOS: Does a hearing usually accompany that process, then, or no? 2 (Comm. Blackburn arrived.) 3 MR. BREWSTER: Not unless somebody 4 asks for a hearing, like in the past, but we 5 have -- like I said, since the -- Mr. Baynard 6 made his recommendation, the Respondent has 7 submitted their objections to reversing those 8 finding, so those need to be considered. 9 COMM. BAYNARD: Now, the next step, 10 if the whole Commission agrees to reverse, the 11 next step is a hearing? 12 MR. BREWSTER: Right, it would go to 13 Judge Lange then. 14 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Well, we've been 15 joined by our Chairperson, who I offered to pass 16 the gavel back to, and she denied, so I will 17 continue. 18 (Laughter.) 19 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Have we any New 20 Business? 21 (No response.) 22 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Okay. And we 23

appear not to have Consent Agreements or Findings 1 2 of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order, which will take us to the Report by Commissioners on 3 Complaint Appeals, and the first one is mine, 4 Stone versus Dash, and I recommend that we uphold 5 6 the -- I've forgotten the word for Housing. 7 not no probable cause, but no --MR. LANGE: Reasonable. 8 9 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Reasonable cause; okay -- the finding of no reasonable cause. 10 I have a motion to accept that recommendation? 11 COMM. GIDNEY: So moved. 12 CHAIRMAN CARTER: And a second? 13 COMM. BAYNARD: Second. 14 CHAIRMAN CARTER: All in favor? 15 16 COMM. BAYNARD: Aye. COMM. BLACKBURN: Aye. 17 COMM. RAMOS: Aye. 18 19 COMM. GIDNEY: Aye. CHAIRMAN CARTER: Aye. 20 21 Any opposed? 22 (No response.) 23 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Okay.

Comm. Gidney, you have cases. 1 COMM. GIDNEY: Okay. In the case of 2 3 Jones versus CSL Plasma Services, Inc., my recommendation is that we uphold the finding of 4 no probable cause. 5 б CHAIRMAN CARTER: Okay. May I have a 7 motion to accept that recommendation? COMM. BLACKBURN: So moved. 8 9 CHAIRMAN CARTER: And a second? COMM. RAMOS: Second. 10 CHAIRMAN CARTER: All in favor? 11 COMM. BAYNARD: Aye. 12 COMM. BLACKBURN: Aye. 13 14 COMM. RAMOS: Aye. 15 COMM. GIDNEY: Aye. 16 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Aye. 17 Any opposed? (No response.) 18 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Thank you. 19 And you have another case. 20 COMM. GIDNEY: Okay. In the case of 21 Bullock versus Cardinal Ritter High School, my 22 recommendation is that we reverse the finding of 23

no probable cause.

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CHAIRMAN CARTER: And may I have a motion to accept that recomm -- oh, do you have a reason for --

COMM. GIDNEY: Yeah. In reviewing the case, I felt that some of the things that the mother was saying in regards to how she felt the daughter was treated, I felt like there was some basis to some of the allegations that were being made.

Just to bring everybody up to speed, this was a case in which a young lady -- she was a basketball star at Cardinal Ritter,

African-American young lady. In her senior year she was cut from the varsity squad, and the mother had the allegation that she believed that it was based on race, ethnicity or whatever.

And as I read through the case record, the mother had established a pretty reasonable line of communication with the school, and the school claimed that their decision was not based on ethnicity, it was based on the behavior of the young lady and choices that she made, but yet

none of that was communicated with the parent, so it just seemed like as though they were creating a pattern so that they could have potentially excluded her from the team, and that was kind of what I got from it.

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There was documentation that showed that they had conversations with the student, but after the parent had overextended herself to establish a line of communication with the school, it just seemed glaring that for whatever reason there was no effort on the part of the school to inform the mother that the daughter was making decisions that could have potentially endangered her spot on the team.

And again, this was not just an average player. There was plenty of case information as it relates to her being recognized through the state for playing basketball exceptionally well for the team, so just to suddenly have her off without any rationale just -- I won't say without any rationale; without any communication with the mother after the mother had overextended herself to have a line of communication with the school,

it just kind of threw up a red flag. If there had been any effort on the part 2 of the school to communicate with the mother, I 3 might have looked at it a little differently. 4 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Okay. Thank you. 5 COMM. GIDNEY: Uh-huh. 6 CHAIRMAN CARTER: May I have a motion 7 to accept the recommendation to reconsider the no 8 probable cause finding? 9 COMM. BAYNARD: So moved. 10 CHAIRMAN CARTER: And a second? 11 COMM. RAMOS: Second. 12 CHAIRMAN CARTER: All in favor? 13 COMM. BAYNARD: Aye. 14 COMM. BLACKBURN: Aye. 15 COMM. RAMOS: Aye. 16 COMM. GIDNEY: Aye. 17 CHAIRMAN CARTER: Aye. 18 Any opposed? 19 (No response.) 20 MR. BREWSTER: And just for the 21 record, so that will go through the same process. 22 The Respondent will be given an opportunity to 23

file objections, and then we'll come back again for consideration of the whole Commission.

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CHAIRMAN CARTER: But there's now on the record the grounds for --

MR. BREWSTER: Right.

CHAIRMAN CARTER: -- whatever the facts remain. Thank you.

And we apparently have no appeals to assign to Commissioners. It's a Christmas present, or holiday present, depending on your level of political correctness.

The Administrative Update, then, please.

MR. BREWSTER: Well, I don't know if Jamal had anything he wanted to share in particular. I can just say that we have continued our journeys around the state, meeting with local agencies.

We were up in Fort Wayne -- well, I guess since last time, last Commission meeting, we went to Gary, East Chicago, Hammond, met with those agencies; also met with some other individuals in Gary. We've been up to Fort Wayne last week, and then so basically where -- we have to get up to

South Bend, Elkhart, Goshen, Michigan City,
Anderson, and that will about conclude our tour.

But those meetings have been going well, have been fairly receptive, although I think there's still a little of -- oh, I don't know, skepticism on the part of some locals, a little apprehension or -- I think some people perceive us as maybe threatening their existence or their federal contracts or somehow -- we've tried to dispel those fears, but, you know, I don't know. We'll see how it goes.

But as the new year comes in, we'll kind of solidify these arrangements with some memorandums of understanding with all of these agencies about how we will cooperate in providing education and outreach and how they might refer complaints to us that lie outside of their jurisdictions.

Other than that, when we were up in

Fort Wayne, actually we met with a superintendent

of the East Allen County Schools. We're dealing

with an issue that's been brought to our

attention up there, a complaint having actually

been filed by eight separate parents involving a reorganization of that school district.

(Mr. Smith arrived.)

MR. BREWSTER: And some of the parents believe there is possibly some disparate impact on a particular high school that is majority African-American, so we're going to investigate that complaint, and at the same time we're trying to work cooperatively with the school district and the parents and see if we can't come to some understanding or way of going forward during this reorganization of the district to make things a little more transparent for the parents. I think there's just maybe a lack of understanding about what's going on.

But I see Jamal is here.

Do you want to -- I was just giving them a briefing on our state tour and kind of the East Allen County thing, and --

MR. SMITH: Okay.

MR. BREWSTER: Do you want to talk about the strategic plan at all the we've unveiled?

MR. SMITH: Yes, first let me apologize for being late. In my other capacity as Commissioner for the Minority Owned Business piece, we had a meeting there, so I do apologize for that.

I'm not sure how much Josh dove into the strategic plan. I heard you mentioning the East Allen County bit, which could potentially be a big piece, a heavy load. They had -- we've had some conversations with the Department of Education, we've also had some conversation with the young lady who was originally the one that filed the complaint, had some conversation with the Governor's Office and with some what we would consider to be stakeholders in the Fort Wayne, East Allen County area.

And there's a lot of conflicting stories, so I think it's important for us to really take a good look and determine how we want to approach it. One of two things could happen. I mean obviously we have to investigate the charge. The problem with a charge like that is I think it would be very, very difficult to prove that they

knowingly discriminated against anything, because it's basically going to come back to funding.

And so, on one hand, obviously the Complainant is arguing that the district didn't allocate or didn't take into consideration the needs of this particular school and therefore allocate enough funds. The district, in turn, is obviously going to say, "Well, you know, number one, that school got more funding than any other school in the district, first of all.

"Second of all, there is no more funding. There was ten dollars in the pot. They got six of it. They got more than anybody else. There's no more funds that we have. We're open to you giving us greater ways to find funding, but in terms of the funding issue, it's not our problem."

So, what -- so, in preliminary discussion, what we've kind of come up with is that we think a large part of our focal point should probably be not so much the closing of the school, per se, but -- and this is not concrete; we could definitely go back on this -- but one important

piece will be the divergence of the kids out of school, because it's the only African-American school; the other schools are primarily Caucasian. And in addition to that, they have a history of some racially charged incidents that have happened at that school.

MR. BREWSTER: But just so you know, I didn't point out what that -- the reorganization, so you understand, involved -- there's five high schools --

MR. SMITH: Yes.

MR. BREWSTER: -- in the district. The plan involves closing the one and only minority school and moving those kids to the other four schools, the school of their choice.

MR. SMITH: Right.

MR. BREWSTER: So, that's what he's referring to there.

MR. SMITH: Right, five high schools. One's not all African-American, and then like 20 percent from east, and then 10 percent somewhere. Then the other schools are 90 percent Caucasian, the other four, and those four, a couple of those

four have a history of nooses found in some lockers, racial epithets being tossed around at kids during athletic events, so on and so forth. So, there's some concern there, some legitimate concern, from the parents in that regard.

Also, too, kids would have to bussed out to outside of their community into some other communities. We sat down with the superintendent, and one of the things she said was -- you know, we asked the superintendent to -- you know, "What course are you taking? Give us your side of this."

And she says, and I -- well, I wish I could give it verbatim. She goes on to say how many other schools are going to be closed. It's not the only school. It's the only high school, but there are other schools in the district. She wanted to use the basis that they are organizing the district comprehensively, right, to consolidate and save money.

And she says, "So, these aren't the only kids that'll have to find another school to go to, and changing schools, you know, it causes

angst, you know, no matter when it happens," and so forth. And my response to her was, "Yeah, that's fine, but that's apples to oranges, because the other schools, number one, are not high schools."

The other schools are also primarily white, so even if they're going to another high -- or another middle school or elementary school, they're entering into an environment that's very similar, if not identical, to the one that they left, whereas the kids in this all-black school, number one, they have to change schools -- angst.

Number two, when they do change schools, they'll be going into a school that looks completely different from where they came from. Not to mention that they'll have to leave their community as a whole to be bussed into a community that is -- the history has shown may not be very welcoming.

Now, I will say that one of the things -- she had some other folks in the meeting that said some of these historical events that we mentioned

may be hearsay and that there hasn't been any validity to it. Now, that's where the investigation things would come in.

So, that's just kind of an update on that piece, let you know the thought process that we've put into this. We thought it was such a complex issue from a local standpoint. Number one, our first response to them -- they wanted me to draft a director's initiated complaint, and I said no, we wouldn't do that because, you know, I don't want to set a precedent where we're just completely jumping into a local issue.

They were voting on some property tax pieces and some other things. I said, "That's a local issue, but if you have some individual complaints, let's protocol -- you file those, and we'll definitely look into those." And then that kind of snowballed into where we sit today. So, that's that case. It's kind of a stay tuned on that front.

A part of that is the strategic plan, and I've mentioned this in some of the meetings that we had before, and one of the things, in the

midst of just a conversation, I wanted to make sure that we put something together that gave us kind of a game plan, a road map, as to where we're going.

Our focus areas -- obviously I won't go over this entirely -- I'll give you guys at the next meeting. Obviously, you'll have an opportunity to approve it, and then we can carry on some discussion at that next meeting. But our focus areas being housing, employment, and then our new one, education, or equal access to eduction, as a major part of our time, three of the branches we'll be taking on.

Our primary focuses are, number one, to rebrand and reposition the agency so that we increase or statewide presence, so as a result and I'm sure Josh has kind of alluded to this -- we've actually been out and covered, I would say, a good three-fourths of the state so far. We've done New Albany, Jeffersonville area, we've done Columbus, Bloomington, we've been down to Terre Haute, Evansville, we've done East Chicago, Hammond, Gary area, we've done Fort Wayne. Josh

did a solo trip to Muncie, I believe --

MR. BREWSTER: Uh-huh.

MR. SMITH: -- and spoke to directors there. And the initiation of all of those trips was obviously our conversation with the heads of all of the human rights consortiums at local, and in addition, to all of the stakeholders, whether it's the NAACP's or the Urban Leagues, Housing Authority, so on and so forth, anyone who might have a vested stake in any one of our focus areas, including the chambers of commerce.

As it stands, there are a lot of private sector companies and corporations that have a vested interest in the area of education, and when we have a conversation with school districts and administrations about lack of funding, you know, our message is that we wanted our folks in the community to actually provide the services that you're looking to fund already, so that may mitigate expenses.

And then part two, there's other capital resources that you can tap into, versus the tax dollars that are obviously limited at this time.

And so, that outreach.

And then the outcome for those will be like to establish MOU's with each of the local human rights consortiums and basically set up an agreement and a process that says we'll come down, provide research -- or not research, outreach and education -- to basically -- and in some cases, strictly on what you do. For example, in Terre Haute, they have no authoritative powers, they have no contracts, their resources are limited, so we can go down and basically give those people what we do.

And in exchange, with that education and outreach and collaboration with the Jeff Cord, who is the director there, we increase our presence in Terre Haute. So, we'd like to take that model and kind of -- obviously MOU's are different, depending on what city you go to.

Like, for example, Fort Wayne is completely different from Terre Haute in that Fort Wayne does have federal contracts and has more resources than Terre Haute, and so then the outcome becomes a series of events and outreach,

things that are listed in here that we'd like to accomplish in the next 12 months.

We broke it down from what I consider to be the short-term goals and objectives, some mid-terms, and then some long-terms, which would ultimately be an assessment of years past of cases we've done and basically assess whether they've been effective or not, whether we need to be face to face.

And the last thing I'd like to mention, in doing so, one of the first pieces that we wanted to do -- and I don't know -- did you distribute these?

MR. MEADOWS: Yes, there is a copy.

MR. SMITH: -- is establish what we want to be our -- you know, we need to establish a baseline metric, so that we won't be spinning our wheels. So, you know, some of our primary concerns, although anecdotal, we found out that, you know, if we were to have some conversations with the lay person on the street and ask them what the Civil Rights Commission is or does, that most would have absolutely no clue.

So, you know, this survey that we wanted to send out -- and we've done it, we've put it on-line, there's hard copies, and we wanted to hit everyone from as high as the executive directors of commissions and city administration down to the grass-roots, churches, the Urban Leagues, NAACP's, et cetera, to get a feel for what our presence or lack thereof is in these respective communities.

Take that, and that will give us a baseline as to how prevalent we are in each area, which will then give us an idea of how much focus we need to put on, you know, wherever we go. So, assess that information, then resend out something very similar at the end of the year, our long-term piece, figure out what we've down throughout the year that's been effective, or whether we need to re-evaluate what we're doing.

So, that's it in a nutshell. Obviously I wanted to give you guys an opportunity over the next month or so to take some time and look it over. If you have any questions at any time, feel free -- and if you have any questions now,

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     I'll definitely field some of those.
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                 COMM. GIDNEY: I have a quick
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     question.
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                 MR. SMITH: Yeah.
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                 COMM. GIDNEY: You guys talked about
     the situation with the high school and the
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     potential culture of the predominantly
     African-Americanized school, but I didn't get --
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     I may have missed it -- but what city is that
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     situation taking place?
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                 MR. SMITH: It's in East Allen
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     County, which is right outside of Fort Wayne, and
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     I don't know what city that falls in.
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                 MR. BREWSTER: Well, there's several
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    towns, New Haven.
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                 MR. SMITH: New haven.
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                 COMM. GIDNEY:
                                Okay.
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                 MR. BREWSTER:
                                I think there's some
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    other little towns kind of right outside of
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    Fort Wayne, but --
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                 MR. SMITH: Just outside of the new
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    addition in Fort Wayne is the civil rights
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    consortium.
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1 COMM. GIDNEY: Uh-huh. 2 MR. SMITH: So, they conveniently, 3 you know, passed the buck on that. 4 COMM. GIDNEY: Okay. 5 MR. SMITH: So, East Allen County is 6 the -- sorry, I don't know the name of the --7 COMM. GIDNEY: Oh, that's okay. 8 MR. SMITH: -- of the city. 9 COMM. GIDNEY: And in terms -- I'm 10 In terms of the visits with the 11 respective civil rights agencies within the 12 different cities that you've visited, have any of 13 them had issues with regard to getting funding 14 from the municipality that they're based in or --15 MR. SMITH: Many of them do. 16 COMM. GIDNEY: Okay. 17 Gary is having a huge MR. SMITH: 18 We haven't made it out to Richmond yet, 19 but we've already found out they got theirs 20 pulled and they're done, and an interesting note 21 to cite about that one, it's funny, because at 22 the -- by default, we're part the Human Rights --

Indiana Human Rights Consortium, which, you know,

we've talked about that, so I'll reserve comment on that one.

He mentions that they were getting the funding pulled and wanted us, the state agency, to make a case for him, in order to make a case to their city-county council on behalf of them, that the services that they provide -- and I think I mentioned this at the last meeting -- that the services that they provide were not a duplication of services, which is what the city-county council was arguing --

COMM. GIDNEY: Uh-huh.

MR. SMITH: -- on their basis for pulling the funding; right? Which I told him I would be do that because it was duplication of services and I would not lie. Then after the fact we had a conversation and I told him, I said, "I think your focus -- you know, your shot's good, but your aim is just off." And so, he's focusing on the duplication of services, but that's not the case. You are relevant, and your relevancy becomes as -- and this should -- on behalf of the agency, this should have happened

before. There should have been relationships with these local agencies prior to this.

COMM. GIDNEY: Uh-huh.

MR. SMITH: Because what happens is, we are a state agency, but we're relatively small compared to a lot of the others; right? We can't be everywhere all of the time. But they're already there. They are our eyes and ears on the ground, and that's where they become relevant. The people within their communities have a face and a place to put to the issues that they have, and that's another incidence that they care.

And what I told them, my message to all of the locals when we were at the meeting, was where we sit, we want to come out -- you know, my mission now that I'm here is to make sure that we get out, establish those relationships, and where you fall short from a resource standpoint, we can provide a lot of those, especially in the areas of outreach and education, which ultimately strengthens you, either financially or from a human capital standpoint, and gives you a little bit more teeth in a lot of cases where you

wouldn't have that.

And so, you can make your case to your city-county council at that point as, "We're the eyes and ears for the local." You know, our people here in Richmond, for example, they don't know Jamal Smith in Indianapolis. You know, they're the state, but they know me here, and they have a place they can come to here locally.

And as a result, we kind of mitigate the issues of the local businesses and the landowners, because we also want to focus our concern on them as well, not just on the complainant or not just on the tenant or the employer -- or the employee, but the employer, as well as the landowners as well, with the education, and educate them on the -- you know, the risk of not adhering to the civil rights laws.

So, yeah, that's a long-winded way of saying a lot of them are facing some issues, and I take -- not that I was here, but I take responsibility on behalf of the agency. Now, we could have mitigated a lot of the issues that

we're having now had these things been done in the past.

A large part of the problems that we're running into now, though, is that a lot of them have this possessive thing going on to where they're possessive of their own little thiefdoms, and it's almost like, you know -- what's the saying -- bite your nose to spite your face, because they're so possessive of it that they're losing the sight of we, as a state agency, can be of help to them.

So, they're a little resistant. You know, they're a little resistant to us coming in, and so, you know, we've been trying some creative and collaborative conversations to say it, but we're not here to step on them. And this is mainly the ones that have the contracts, however small they are, with either HUD or EEOC, but we're not here to interfere with any of your contracts or agreements, we don't want to take away any of your cases. We want to strengthen you. We want to help you spend less money or resources on the outreach and education issue and increase your

presence.

In addition, what I tell them is that, you know, you have jurisdiction over your little city. There are some counties that surround you that are full of people who never get service, and because it's outside your jurisdiction, these people have no recourse. We're here to, number one, widen that reach that you have so that those people have services as well; right?

And in exchange, those complaints that come in that fall outside of your jurisdiction, yes, we do expect you to send those to us so that we can make sure they are accurately investigated and potentially litigated.

COMM. GIDNEY: Uh-huh.

MR. SMITH: So, that's been a part of the discussion, but a lot of them, it's just going to take some time. And my end, though, is, you know, whether you like it or not, we're coming, so I advise you to work with us now or for us later, either way. You know, one of the directives we have is that actually we are not just the Indianapolis Civil Rights Commission,

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but the Indiana Civil Rights Commission, and 1 2 that's our focus. 3 COMM. GIDNEY: Okay. 4 COMM. RAMOS: A question for you on 5 the strategy pieces. I just had a chance to look 6 through this, but in there you mentioned metrics. 7 MR. SMITH: Yes. 8 COMM. RAMOS: I know that's kind of a 9 baseline on really the overall perspective of the 10 community. 11 MR. SMITH: Right. 12 COMM. RAMOS: And what's their 13 knowledge, and other questions as well. As far 14 as some of your key pieces that are in here, I know you had three key areas. Are you going to 15 16 set objectives as a part of that as well, or --17 because you want to cover it all; right, not just 18 what people know of us, but, you know, if it's --19 MR. SMITH: Yeah. 20 COMM. RAMOS: -- case load, if it's, 21 you know, whatever, education aspects. 22 MR. SMITH: Right.

COMM. RAMOS: Are you going to look

at that as far as setting base lines as well?

MR. SMITH: Well, yes, and we do
have -- internally we've set some goals that we
have for each unit. One of the reasons that

those remain a focus there, though, is because we receive funding and we can do some things.

COMM. RAMOS: Right.

MR. SMITH: So, for example, HUD just so happens to be the most -- the largest part of our funding, so it would make sense that as we go out, you know, lot of that is given to us to do outreach and education specifically.

So, for example, one of the things that we also have funding for, that -- and I had a conversation with the Judge and the legal unit -- that we need to reimplement our CLE's that -- from what I gather, at one point we used to do and do quite consistently, but here in recent times we have not done that at all.

So, in 2011 we'll reinstate that and do so on a minimum of a bimonthly basis, so every other month we'll have a CLE, and one of the things I gave to the staff is that a majority of them have

to be outside of the City of Indianapolis. So, the first one, which is in February, we'll make sure that we give you guys as the Commissioners information because, you know having you along would be great.

The first one will be in February, which will be here. The last one will be in December, and it will be here. Everything in between will be elsewhere. A case in point, April, which is ironically Fair Housing Month, will be in the Northwest section of the state, hopefully in Gary, which will be ideal. We want to make sure that we're in the heart of the city and the Northwest region.

And so, the baseline would be the CLE; right? The biggest portion of the funding would be housing related, you know, so we can take resources via staff and moneys and make sure that we're doing -- bringing keynote speakers.

Chicago's there. We're going to have some speakers.

So, the biggest portion of it will be the housing related pieces, but in addition, we want

to have an education round table and summit, we want to have some employment public accommodation seminars and trainings and so on and so forth, and so, that gives us, by using those three, which is where we get our funding from, that gives us an opportunity to address, especially when we do outreach and education, everything.

1.7

So, all of the information that we send out -- for example, we have to put together -- when we're gearing up to go into a city or a region, we want to make sure that we send out press releases ahead of time and put together -- and we had some preliminary conversations with all of the staff here to go through all of this, so we want to leverage and be as efficient with the resources that we have as we can.

So, for example, historically this agency has sponsored the Indiana Black Expo to the tune of, I think, 15K per year. As a result, what we got in return was a table at a luncheon and a booth to sit in at the Expo. In my opinion, that was a bad use of funds.

So, I had at conversation with the

President, or the Director, Tanya Bell, of IBE, and I said, "Look, we love what IBE is doing, the mission, and we want to continue to support it, but we need more ROI and more return on the 15K that we give."

So, one of the things that we want to leverage are the chapters that they have locally, and as go out and do our outreach and our housing and things, then we can leverage those relationships, as well as they have videos, they also have Latino videos, to relationship with them, and they can help us put together some video PSA's; right, both in Spanish and in English.

And so, as we gear up to go into a city or a region, you know, we send out our PSA's, we submit our PSA's, press releases and things of that nature, and those pieces of media will address everything that we cover so that we get -- ideally we want to pull in the bang for the buck, as many people from within that community as we can potentially bring in. Does that make sense?

1 COMM, RAMOS: Yeah. 2 COMM. BLACKBURN: Yeah. Let me suggest to you that -- and maybe you've already 3 made plans to do so --4 5 MR. SMITH: Yes, ma'am. 6 COMM. BLACKBURN: -- but we've found 7 in our -- over the years, our efforts to do 8 outreach in locations around this state --9 MR. SMITH: Uh-huh. 10 COMM. BLACKBURN: -- that there's low 11 attendance and participation despite those kinds 12 of efforts that you've just explained --13 MR. SMITH: Okay. 14 COMM. BLACKBURN: -- by way of media 15 and that sort of thing, that you might partner with local organizations and their regular 16 meeting times or regular events or special events 17 18 so that you become an adjunct to their already 19 set program, a feature on something that is 20 already well established and there will be 21 attendance guaranteed --22 MR. SMITH: Already.

COMM. BLACKBURN: -- for the event so

23

that you don't have to start at ground zero with each one of these presentations. And --

COMM. GIDNEY: Uh-huh.

COMM. BLACKBURN: -- on that, once the schedule is set, that you also allow for Commissioners to have those dates on their calendars, so when and if they can be in attendance at those events, they can bolster the efforts and heighten the import of what we're trying to do.

MR. SMITH: I agree wholeheartedly, and that has been a lot of the premise, that I didn't want to recreate the wheel, which is a large reason why we started out sort of reaching out to all of these organizations. It's -- one of the fears is to go into an empty room after we've poured so much effort and resources into it.

So, I agree wholeheartedly the idea is to find an event or a meeting or something that's already going on and hopefully just beef it up and add more to it. So, we'll definitely take that and make sure that we do a better job of

getting information out to you guys as well.

CHAIRMAN CARTER: Are there any further questions, comments, observations?

COMM. BLACKBURN: Nothing of real importance except that I want to make an administrative request, that I get my reports by snail mail and then printed. I appreciate the effort of the agency to try to cut back on paper and printing and mailing and those kind of costs, but you transfer it to my office and my secretary's going to complain.

So, I don't know how that affects the other Commissioners, but to the extent that you need to have your reports mailed to you rather than sent by e-mail, the request should be made to you or to whom?

MS. SHARP: To me. I will do that.

COMM. BLACKBURN: Thank you kindly.

MR. SMITH: Actually, Tawanda won't be -- right now she will, but that will transfer soon. We'll work that out. If -- and one of the reasons -- and I cut that out and I'll take responsibility for that, and one of the reasons

we did it is because, as I gathered, we were printing them twice.

And so, we can definitely get them to you guys, print them up and send them ahead of time and make sure you have them, everyone who wants them that way. We just wanted to do that, but that's no big deal. We just have to make sure we have them here. Does that just -- does anybody else want them ahead of time, hard copy?

CHAIRMAN CARTER: E-mail's fine with me.

COMM. BAYNARD: I've asked that Tawanda send them to me. I think this is the second month.

MR. SMITH: So, you want a hard copy as well?

COMM. BAYNARD: Yes, and I really don't need to have a hard copy here in front of me when I get here. I can bring mine from home.

MR. SMITH: That's what I would -- I mean yeah, that's perfect, I think that would be perfect. Okay. We'll definitely do that.

CHAIRMAN CARTER: Any more?

COMM. BLACKBURN: Well, in fact we know you've been working hard because you haven't been around. We've missed you.

MR. SMITH: Yeah, I know. I'm sorry about that.

COMM. BLACKBURN: That's all right.

MR. SMITH: I think last time we were actually -- the last Commission meeting we were traveling, I know we took a trip down south. So, thank you guys for the time.

Actually I could say that in the last month, the name of the Commission has come up twice, once at the Governor's Disability Conference, where Doris from Gary came up to me, recognized me from something, and then apparently the City of Bloomington was asked for -- to fund a busload of kids for MLK activities or something by the Commission, and so I -- in almost 20 years, I don't think a month has gone by that the name has come up once, never mind twice, so you must be doing something right.

MR. SMITH: We would like to

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interject -- and I apologize -- have we touched
 1
 2
     on MLK events?
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                 COMM. RAMOS: (Shook head no.)
                 MR. SMITH: Okay. We will forward
 4
 5
     that information to you guys. At least
 6
     preliminarily we're still trying to tie up loose
 7
     ends. As you know, the responsibility of putting
 8
     on the event falls on the Commission, although
 9
     there is an MLK Commission statutorily
10
     responsible for that. So, that being said, we
11
    kind of wrapped our arms around the event, and
12
    Ava -- and have you officially been introduced?
     I know I'm late, so a part of this -- and I
13
14
     apologize.
15
                 MS. TAYLOR: No, I haven't.
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                 MR. SMITH: Well, then let me
17
    officially introduce you guys to our new outreach
    and event coordinator, Ms. Ava Taylor.
18
19
                 MS. TAYLOR: Hi.
20
                 COMM. BLACKBURN: Good morning, and
    welcome.
21
22
                 MR. SMITH: She is and will be --
23
                              Thank you.
                 MS. TAYLOR:
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MR. SMITH: She is and will be responsible for coordination of -- as we kind of get out -- the outreach, but in addition, all of the events and things we put on, including our monthly Commission meetings, we want to make sure that we strengthen up these local fields.

I say that to say that the MLK event is probably our first significant -- will be our first significant event in 2011. The scheduled date for it -- and again, we'll send this information to you guys -- will be Thursday, January 13th, which is the Thursday prior to the actual holiday.

The idea for that was that because of the holiday, many people take off on Friday. Number two, we didn't want to require anybody on than Monday to do something on the actual holiday. It's a two-part event, just like normal. We have an early piece for the young folks. That will be at the State Museum. Rodney Lomax at the State Museum has done a really good job of working with us on that.

We're looking at -- hopefully we'll get up

to 500 kids. I think the last report, we were around 200-something kids coming. So, we'll feed the kids, they'll have -- and then the anchor event that morning, there's a two-man show. I forget what it's called, but the focus is Abraham Lincoln and --

MS. TAYLOR: Frederick Douglass.

MR. SMITH: -- Frederick Douglass, and it's kind of a precursor to conversations that they would have had about slavery and so on and so forth, so it'll give the kids kind of a snapshot about what that looks like.

In addition, too, they have a theatre there at the Museum, and the kids will get a chance to watch an MLK documentary piece, so they'll do that, they'll eat, see the show, and then that will take up the morning, and they're welcome to come over, obviously, to the Statehouse, which is where -- I'm starting to call it the adult part of the day.

It's where we'll have -- we'll hand out four awards, which we're still tying up loose ends on the four recipients. I decided -- I

guess historically we gave two or three or four awards per award away. I cut that down. One person per award will get an award at the time of the event, so we'll let you know who those

And tentatively scheduled as the keynote speaker, Tom King --

MS. TAYLOR: Tim King.

MR. SMITH: -- Tim King of Urban Prep Academy out of Chicago, that's the school where they graduated a hundred percent -- it's an all-boys school, all African-American. They graduated a hundred percent of their class, and a hundred percent are -- have been accepted and are going to four-year institutions or college. And we've invited him to come in as the keynote, the focus being on education, equal access to an education. That's the best use of our time, and he'll be the anchor of the event.

So, those are the basic details for that, and we'll make sure that we get a report out to you guys, including a slide low for the strategic plan and the specific information about the MLK

 recipients are.

events to you guys very soon.

And we welcome again Ava Taylor, and I think this is the first time that you guys have had an opportunity to see and/or meet Mr. Brad Meadows, who was here at the last two meetings that I wasn't here to introduce, and he is our communications specialist.

And if you've checked our Web site any time lately, it is actually up to date and we have moved into at least 2010, and he's done a fantastic job of providing the meeting and communication and things that we're working on as well.

So, thanks again.

MS. TAYLOR: If I may, excuse me.

CHAIRMAN CARTER: Yes.

MS. TAYLOR: I'd like to just add an administrative note, and, of course, you'll get this in writing. Mr. Smith indicated we will be traveling to Northwest Indiana in April, and as a result of that, we needed to change the April meeting date because we wanted to meet there the 28th and 29th. So, the new Commission

meeting date for April will be Thursday,

April 21st, 2011. It will still be in this

location, we but we moving to Rooms -- Conference

Rooms 4 and 5.

CHAIRMAN CARTER: Okay. I hope we

can handle such drastic changes, a different day

and a different place.

(Laughter.)

MS. TAYLOR: You don't know if you can handle that, huh?

CHAIRMAN CARTER: Well, you know, like the cattle, we'll all come to the gate like an hour before to get let through the barn to be fed, and if you feed them somewhere else, they don't know what to do.

(Laughter.)

MR. SMITH: The only other thing I want to toss out is having a Commission meeting actually in Gary in conjunction with kind of that --

MS. TAYLOR: I call it a road show.

MR. SMITH: -- event, and we are

having it northwest, but, you know, I know you

guys travel from different parts of the state and the reason it's always here in Indianapolis is because it's a central location, so if you guys decide that you want to have it up there, I'm sure that can be -- we'll make sure that happens.

MS. TAYLOR: Uh-huh. And the date for that -- for the time there in Gary is April --

MR. SMITH: 28th.

MS. TAYLOR: -- 28th and 29th, that
Thursday and Friday, the last Thursday and Friday
of the month of April, so if you are interested
in traveling there and having the Commission
meeting there, we certainly can make
accommodations for that to happen. But as it
stands now, we're still scheduled for here in
Indianapolis, just that change of date and
room --

CHAIRMAN CARTER: Okay.

MS. TAYLOR: -- on the 21st.

CHAIRMAN CARTER: For now, we have the winter to deal with, and it's supposed to snow again Monday.

Okay. Are there any other announcements or anything? (No response.) CHAIRMAN CARTER: Hearing none, please observe the dates of the upcoming meetings and stay if there are any signatures. I don't know if there are any or not, but don't run off -- well, there are five of us, so one of you can run off. And we are adjourned. Thereupon, the proceedings of December 17, 2010 were concluded at 12:04 o'clock p.m. 

CERTIFICATE

I, Lindy L. Meyer, Jr., the undersigned Court Reporter and Notary Public residing in the City of Shelbyville, Shelby County, Indiana, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me on Friday, December 17, 2010 in this matter and transcribed by me.

Lindy L. Meyer, Jr.

Notary Public in and for the State of Indiana.

My Commission expires October 27, 2016.

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